

Appl. No. 09/844,114

Reply to Final Office Action of June 1, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 21 have been amended. New claims 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 have been added.

In the Final Office Action mailed June 1, 2005, the Examiner indicated at page 5 that claims 5-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice and independent claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice and new independent claim 25 which incorporates the subject matter of former claims 21 and 6 has been added. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice and new independent claim 26

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which incorporates the subject matter of former claims 21 and 7 has been added. Claim 14 has been canceled without prejudice and new independent claim 27 which incorporates the subject matter of former claims 21 and 14 has been added. Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice and new independent claim 28 which incorporates the subject matter of former claims 21 and 17 has been added. Claim 18 has been canceled without prejudice and new independent claim 29 which incorporates the subject matter of former claims 21 and 18 has been added. Claim 19 has been canceled without prejudice and new independent claim 30 which incorporates the subject matter of former claims 21 and 19 has been added.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30, as presented herein, are in condition for allowance.

Additionally, dependent claims 8 and 10 have been amended to depend from new independent claim 26. Dependent claims 9, 12 and 13 have been amended to depend from new independent claim 25 and dependent claims 15 and 16 have been amended to depend from new independent claim 27. Dependent claim 2 depends from allowable claim 21 and dependent claims 11 and 20 ultimately depend from

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new independent claim 26.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 20 as presented herein are in condition for allowance as well.

In summary, claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice. Independent claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 5. New independent claims 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 which incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 6, 7, 14, 17, 18 and 19, respectively, have been added. Dependent claims 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 21 have been amended to depend from one of new independent claims 25, 26 or 27. Previously presented claim 2 depends from allowable claim 21 and previously presented claims 11 and 20 ultimately depend from new independent claim 26.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2468 in the amount of \$ 600.00 to cover the fee for six (6) independent claims over three for a small entity.

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Applicant believes that the remaining claims, which are claims 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30, as presented herein, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the aforementioned claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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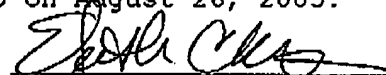
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Fax No. 571 273 8300

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission to the U.S.P.T.O. to Patent Examiner E. Y. Zheng, Group No. 2634, to 571 273 8300 on August 26, 2005.


Elizabeth C. Richter

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